

OTHER NOTICES

Gebhard, B. *Das Leben der Frau in gesunden und kranken Tagen.* Stuttgart. Union Deutsche Verlagsgesellschaft. 2nd edition. Pp. 230.

In this book Dr. Gebhard aims to help women to a better understanding of all the natural questions which arise during their life, and which—though they are natural—have not been treated as such for generations. All these questions are treated from the biological, psychological and moral points of view. The scientifically minded can find interesting statistical data and excellent cross-sectional diagrams; others may enjoy the quotations from famous poets and the reproductions of famous pictures referring to the various phases of woman's life.

From the eugenic point of view the chapter "Wen soll man heiraten?" ("Whom shall one marry?") is interesting, as it gives information on the present German Marriage Law which was passed in 1935. While later on it will be compulsory in Germany for both partners to produce a medical certificate stating that they are "fit for marriage," at present they have only to sign a declaration stating that they are free from any mental or venereal diseases and from tuberculosis. In case of doubt the registrar is entitled to demand medical examination. The marriage laws between Aryans and Jews are given in detail.

The book fulfils its purpose by giving exact information on all aspects of womanhood in a clear and easily accessible way.

I. R. H.

Griffith, Edward F. *The Childless Family: Its Cause and Cure.* London, 1939. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co. Pp. 128. Price 3s. 6d.

DR. GRIFFITH is to be congratulated on his effort to bring the subject of sterile marriage and its treatment before the public. It is surprising how few persons, in this country at any rate, realize that much can be done to help the childless couple, provided both husband and wife are willing to co-operate with the doctor and undergo careful investigation, and if necessary treatment. Dr. Griffith describes and discusses many of the more modern methods for dealing with infertility in simple enough fashion for most to understand. He mentions such things as hormone estimations, tubal insufflations, and lipidol injections, and gives some good skiagrams of the pelvis after this procedure. Plenty of space is rightly devoted to the consideration of the male factor in sterile matings, an aspect of the problem which has been too frequently ignored in the past both by the laity and the medical profession. He is not always entirely accurate in details of pathology, prone to be dogmatic on

matters still sub judice and tends perhaps to over-emphasize some aspects at the expense of others. Nevertheless, if by reading this book, even a few involuntary sterile couples are induced to seek expert advice it will not have been written in vain.
G. H.

Hill, A. Bradford. *Principles of Medical Statistics.* Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. London, 1939. *The Lancet.* Pp. viii+189. Price 6s.

THE first edition of this work has been reviewed at some length.* A chapter has now been included, in which the usual methods of calculating standardized death-rates are illustrated and discussed in detail. A few points have been clarified and some extra examples and paragraphs added.

K. H.

Holecek-Holleschowitz, Carl. *Angewandte Tierzucht auf rassenbiologischer Grundlage.* Vienna, 1939. Julius Springer. Pp. xiv+176. Price (unbound) R.M. 12, (bound) R.M. 13.50.

A book on the races of cattle, horses, pigs, sheep and goats with short descriptions of the main breeds and their possible phylogenetic relationships. There are 107 photographs, mostly very good, 71 of which have been taken over from a text-book by L. Adametz. The general discussion cannot, even by a very benevolent reviewer, be described other than as confused; and it is couched in a type of language which seems to have established itself as the standard of writers on racial "science" in Germany. A short appendix on human races does not deserve a review in a scientific journal.

H. G. HILL.

Kirkpatrick, Clifford. *Woman in Nazi Germany.* London, 1938. Jarrolds Ltd. Pp. 319. Price 12s. 6d.

THIS is a most interesting, vivid and careful study. It is as impartial as, in the author's own words, his "prejudice in favour of democracy, liberalism, and human reason" would permit him to make it. The story unfolds itself in the light of a cool and genuine desire to see all the possible good in the National Socialist view and treatment of women. The subject is dealt with in all its aspects and regarded from every conceivable angle. It is, for instance, clearly demonstrated that the position of women is at present very largely determined by economic factors, and how, therefore, the Nazis have been

* EUGENICS REVIEW, 29, 212.

unable to carry out their full intentions, and "women workers are still doing tasks of which gynaecologists would not approve."

The chapters on "The Battle of the Birth Rate," and on "Breeding for Quality," will interest eugenicists most. Dr. Kirkpatrick's final verdict here is that: "The National Socialists are wielding crude eugenic weapons, but with an energy that approaches fanaticism." Nevertheless, "the splendid tradition of German science is not quite dead. . . . German scientists are carrying on studies of twins directly from rich materials that will force their American colleagues to think twice before being patronizing and dogmatic in regard to heredity."

The chapter on "the Fate of Women Leaders" contains information vital for all feminists—and the last chapter on "German Woman and the Nazi Experiment" should be carefully read and digested. The whole story is best summarized in Dr. Kirkpatrick's own words: "The tale began with the Nazi conquest of German women and their organization under a new leader to accept the Nazi verdict concerning family life and woman's place. No consistent doctrine was expounded but reproduction, womanly work and strengthened home life were recurrent themes. . . . A doubtful analysis was made of woman's nature. . . the story does not have a happy ending and one must write—in Nazi Germany the woman's problem has not been solved." Yet: "It is easy to underestimate the psychological satisfactions which National Socialism brought to German women as well as to German men. Many a shrunken ego was inflated by identification with a great tribal in-group. Millions of humble mothers were made to feel that the pangs of child-birth and the cares of child-rearing had at last been appreciated as a noble service to the folk state. National Socialism brought a sweet sense of belonging to an intimate in-group made up of comrades of the same blood and the same belief. It brought the comfort of a simple faith, the religious experience of yielding to something larger than oneself. Conflict could be eliminated and personality integrated by devotion to a father, lover, saviour, protector and leader combined in the person of Adolf Hitler. The pageantry of Nazi Germany gives to women the tonic effect of a religious revival and the hope of salvation in a nation reborn." Yet "there is no reason to think that psychological satisfactions outweigh the privation, fear, worry, repression, hypocrisy and self-deception that are consequences of the Nazi regime. . . . German women, educated and humble, are forced to live in a strange world where 'truth' is created by force."

The proofs of these assertions—a long and convincing tale—are given in the course of this book which can be recommended to all those who care to understand the most urgent problems which confront mankind.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

England, F. E. *Can Human Nature Be Improved?* London, 1938. Rich & Cowan. Pp. 239. Price 3s. 6d.

For the eugenicist this book has less interest than might be inferred from the title. It concerns itself little with the large social problems of improving environment and inherited constitution, but almost entirely with individual betterment, improvement of the soul or character.

Those who suppose that psychotherapy can be literally interpreted as treatment of the sick soul will be struck by the wide difference of approach and perhaps also of method between the medical psychotherapist and the religious one: both aim at a harmonious way of life for the individual, but the one seeks to affect it by methods which implicitly or overtly assume psychical determinism and into which religion, if it enters at all, is a coping stone or background rather than an essential. The religious psychotherapist, however, as Dr. England points out in this little book, aims at clearer thinking, at the purification of feeling to make it chaste, by way of humility and disciplined effort, and with the apprehension and adoration of God as its acme.

The book, which is written more in the style of a sermon than of a treatise, considers first human nature, then psychological means of improving it, and finally spiritual conflict and spiritual healing issuing in the good life. There are a number of passages to which the medical reader might take exception, e.g. the passages about the endocrine glands, but these are not essential to the main theme.

HILDA LEWIS.

Steward, Julian H. *Basin-Plateau Aboriginal Sociopolitical Groups.* Washington, 1938. U.S.A. Government Printing Office. Pp. xii+346. Price 50 cents.

THE region considered lies between Columbia and Colorado rivers, from Montana to Arizona, and the peoples concerned are chiefly various groups of Paiute and Shoshoni. The author has tried to gather data concerning the region in which these peoples live, its plants and animals, and the lives of these hunting and gathering peoples considered as socio-political groups, but he is not an "environmental determinist" for he realizes fully that importations of culture are important. The family of one pair and their children works as a separate unit in seed-gathering, but for winter residence and some fishing and irrigation, as well as large-scale hunting, larger groupings are formed for a time, and larger groups, sometimes unilineal, sometimes composite, are considered as owning land for use, but some of the peoples studied seemed to have lost this feature entirely. The unilineal and composite groups naturally differed considerably in rules of marriage. Population density is characteristically

given in square miles per person, the figures ranging from just under 1 to over 50.

H. J. F.

Winslow, C. E. A. *The School Health Program: Report of the Regents' Inquiry into the Character and Cost of Public Education in the State of New York.* London, 1938. McGraw-Hill. Pp. xiii+120. Price 8s. 6d.

The School Health Program is a contribution to the inquiry into the character and cost of public education in the State of New York, organized under the direction of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York.

The scope of the study embraces not only the physical health of the school child, but mental and social health. It comprises a survey of the physical environment including sanitation, lighting, etc., and there are sections dealing with mental hygiene, health instruction in the schools, physical education, recreation, and health services, by which are to be understood the physical examination of school children and the correction of defects.

The Inquiry, comparable in some ways to the *Report on Health and Physical Education*, published

in London by the Board of Education, is neither so full nor so comprehensive as that Report. Its value and interest in this country are somewhat limited by the considerable proportion given to statistics, costs, and suggestions for organization by the New York State Education Department.

A point worth noting is the stress laid on the relation between physical and mental health, and in the importance given to the need for psychological treatment of the maladjusted child. The author suggests that the meeting of this need requires co-operation between psychiatrist, school doctor and school nurse, attendance officer, and above all, the physical educator. He states that in a very few schools the work of trained visiting teachers furnishes an ideal approach to this problem, but so far little headway has been made, except in cases in which administrative grouping of the various health services has been formed under a child-study department where a diagnostic clinic provides the approach to the study of the treatment of children.

While from a comparative point of view the Report is worth reading, the problem is too specific to be of general interest to the English reader.

EDITH B. WARR.

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